

The Putney School

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Dear Parents and Student,

Greetings from Putney! I am writing about summer reading expectations for all students. Again this year we are requiring that all students, regardless of grade, read the same book, which is available through your local bookstore.

The required book for all grades is:

Dreams from My Father: A Story of Race and Inheritance by Barack Obama
(Three Rivers Press, ISBN# 978-1400082773)

Listed below are additional reading suggestions that are fun, challenging, and good background for high school English. We ask that each student read at least one book from these lists; we expect that most will read more than one. While these lists are somewhat arbitrary—obviously, there are countless books of literary merit from which to choose—these provide a good place to start. Reading over the summer is essential for satisfaction and success in English courses at this level.

- 9th Grade: *The Bean Trees* by Barbara Kingsolver
 Black Boy by Richard Wright
 Of Mice and Men by John Steinbeck
 The Catcher in the Rye by J.D. Salinger
 The Joy Luck Club by Amy Tan
 Jane Eyre by Charlotte Bronte
 The House on Mango Street by Sandra Cisneros
 Life of Pi by Yann Martel
 Pride and Prejudice by Jane Austen
 Any short story collection
 Any poetry collection
- 10th Grade: *How the Garcia Girls Lost Their Accents* by Julia Alvarez
 The Professor and the Madman by Simon Winchester
 Hunger for Memory by Richard Rodriguez
 The Secret Life of Bees by Sue Monk Kidd
 The Color of Water by James McBride
 Brave New World by Aldous Huxley
 Great Expectations by Charles Dickens
 Mountains beyond Mountains by Tracy Kidder
 Slaughterhouse-Five by Kurt Vonnegut
 The Dispossessed by Ursula Le Guin
 Any short story collection
 Any poetry collection
- 11th Grade: *The Women of Brewster Place* by Gloria Naylor
 Seize the Day by Saul Bellow
 The Liars' Club by Mary Karr

Three by Flannery O'Connor by Flannery O'Connor
Tell Me a Riddle, Stories by Tillie Olsen
On the Road by Jack Kerouac
The Fire Next Time by James Baldwin
Blue Highways by William Least Heat-Moon
As I Lay Dying by William Faulkner
The Shipping News by Annie Proulx
A Farewell to Arms by Ernest Hemingway
Any short story collection
Any poetry collection

12th Grade: *Henderson the Rain King* by Saul Bellow
The Remains of the Day by Kazuo Ishiguro
White Noise by Don DeLillo
Invisible Man by Ralph Ellison
Death in Venice by Thomas Mann
Sula by Toni Morrison
The Man Who Mistook His Wife for a Hat by Oliver Sacks
The Country of Marriage by Wendell Berry
One Hundred Years of Solitude by Gabriel Marcia Marquez
Interpreter of Maladies by Jhumpa Lahiri
Middlesex by Jeffrey Eugenides
Any short story collection
Any poetry collection

New speakers of English:

The House on Mango Street by Sandra Cisneros
Of Mice and Men by John Steinbeck
The Old Man and the Sea by Ernest Hemingway
Persepolis by Marjane Satrapi
American Born Chinese, Gene Luen Yang
Animal Farm by George Orwell
To Kill a Mockingbird by Harper Lee
Maus by Art Spiegelman
The Adventures of Tom Sawyer by Mark Twain
Tuck Everlasting by Natalie Babbitt
Where the Red Fern Grows by Wilson Rawls
Any short story or poetry collection

Finally—and this is especially important for students new to Putney—please plan on arriving at school knowing how to type and use a computer; the English department requires all papers to be typed.

Please feel free to write Karla Baldwin, Academic Dean (email address: kbaldwin@putneyschool.org) this summer with comments or questions.

Sincerely,



Carol Dickson
English Department Chair